

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

As an initial matter, it is noted that the Form PTOL-90A, the cover page of the most recent Official Action, sets forth a 3 month shortened statutory period for reply. However, Form PTOL-326 sets a shortened statutory period for response of 1 month or 30 days, whichever is longer. Since the issue raised in the Official Action are substantive in nature, the 3 month shortened statutory period for response is appropriate and this Amendment is submitted within that time frame, not requiring an extension of time.

Appreciation is expressed to Examiner Jackson and Examiner Bianco for their time and attention during the interview conducted at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on June 13, 2007. The remarks below discuss the substance of the interview.

Examiner Jackson is thanked for returning initialed and signed copies of forms PTO-1449 submitted with the three Information Disclosure Statements filed in this application. As mentioned during the interview, the returned copy of form PTO-1449 submitted with the Second Information Disclosure Statement filed on March 25, 2004 does not include initialing next to the cited European Application Publication. The Examiner is kindly asked to return another copy of such form with initialing next to the European Application Publication.

In addition, the returned copy of form PTO-1449 submitted with the First Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 17, 2003 indicates that the cited Japanese Utility Model was not considered. As pointed out during the interview, a

copy of this document was submitted, together with a computer generated English language translation. Further, this document is discussed beginning on page one of the present application. Accordingly, the relevant requirements have been satisfied, and the Examiner is kindly asked to consider such document and return an initialed copy of form PTO-1449 indicating consideration of such document.

Claim 1 is amended to address the minor objection pointed out at the top of page three of the Official Action. Accordingly, withdrawal of the claim objection is respectfully requested.

As discussed during the interview, the subject matter of this application pertains to a hemostatic device adapted to be attached to a patient's limb to apply pressure to a site at which bleeding is to be stopped. The hemostatic device comprises a flexible band adapted to be wrapped around the limb of a patient at a site where bleeding is to be stopped, a curved plate made of a material more rigid than the band, with at least a portion of the curved plate being curved toward the inner peripheral side, and a balloon provided on the inner peripheral side of the curved plate that is inflatable when a fluid is introduced into the balloon.

As explained during the interview, one aspect of the hemostatic device at issue here involves the combination of the curved plate and the balloon (main balloon), and the positioning of the balloon relative to the curved plate. As discussed during the interview, and as set forth in original dependent Claims 8 and 13, the balloon is located relative to the curved plate at a position deviated to one end of the curved plate in the lengthwise direction of the band. With this arrangement, the band rises when the balloon is inflated to thereby avoid the possibility of significantly

deteriorating blood circulation in circumferential portions of the body other than the site where bleeding is to be stopped.

As also explained during the interview, U.S. Patent No. 6,336,901 to *Itonaga et al.* discloses a sphygmomanometer cuff. Several embodiments of the cuff include two airbags 11, 12 positioned on the inside surface of a band 13. However, the disclosed cuff does not utilize a curved plate as claimed, and does not disclose disposing one of the balloons 11, 12 at a position deviated to one end of a curved plate in the lengthwise direction of the band. The cuff illustrated and described in *Itonaga et al.* is such that when the airbag 11 is inflated, the band 13 does not rise to any significant extent relative to the patient's wrist and so pressure is applied to a relatively large circumferential portion of the wrist, thus raising the possibility that a deterioration in blood flow circulation or the like can occur.

Recognizing that *Itonaga et al.* does not disclose a curved plate, the Official Action refers to the disclosure in U.S. Patent No. 5,295,951 to *Fareed*. This document describes a compression band that includes upper and lower plates 56, 57. However, as was explained during the interview, even if one of ordinary skill in the art was motivated to provide a curved plate to the cuff disclosed in *Itonaga et al.* based on the disclosure in *Fareed*, the result would not be a hemostatic device in which a balloon is located at a position deviated to one end of a curved plate in the lengthwise direction of the band as recited in independent Claims 1 and 12. Similarly, the cited references do not provide a reason for constructing a hemostatic device to comprise, in combination with the other features recited in independent Claim 15, a balloon and a curved plate, wherein the balloon is offset from the center of the curved plate towards one end of the curved plate in the lengthwise direction of

the band. Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 12 and 15 are patentably distinguishable over the combined disclosures in *Itonaga et al.* and *Fareed*.

The other document cited in the Official Action, U.S. Patent No. 6,694,821 to *Yamakoshi et al.*, does not make up for the deficiencies pointed out above.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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